

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 were pending in this application. Claims 1 -20 were rejected. Claims 1 and 7 have been amended. Claims 5-6 and 20 have been cancelled. Reconsideration of the rejections of all pending claims is requested.

I. Rejection of Claims 1-3, 5, 7-17 and 20 Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1-3, 5, 7-17 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Davidson (U.S. 5,639,163) in view of Thomson (U.S. 6,554,469).

CLAIM 1

Claim 1, as amended herein, is printed as follows for convenience:

An integrated circuit, comprising:
a number of pads;
a constant current source to provide a current;
a thermal diode that receives said current, said thermal diode being coupled between first and second ones of said pads; and
an analog to digital converter to i) receive a forward bias voltage of the thermal diode, and ii) output a digital representation of the forward bias voltage;

wherein a third one of said pads is provided to receive a reference current, said third pad being coupled to an input of said constant current source, said reference current thereby serving to control the constant current source.

Some portions of claim 1 that are not disclosed by either Davidson or Thomson, or their combination, have been printed in bold type. It is noted that the bold typed section of claim 1 has been added from claim 5, which was cancelled herein.

Based on the foregoing, neither Davison nor Thomson disclose, "wherein a third one of said pads is provided to receive a reference current, said third pad being coupled to an input of said constant current source, said reference current thereby serving to control the constant current source" as claimed in claim 1. Because this section of claim 1 is based on claim 5, the applicant refers to the rejection of claim 5 in the office action. According to the office action, Davidson discloses a third one of said pads provided to receive a reference current, wherein the third pad is referred to as C4B in Davidson.

According to the office action, the 15 volt power supply coupled with R1 and/or R2 constitute the constant current source of claim 1. As shown in Fig. 2 of Davidson and as described by the office action, the constant current source has outputs coupled to C4B and C4C. Accordingly, C4B is an output from the constant current source and an input to the diode D1. Therefore, C4B cannot be "coupled to an input of said constant current source" as claimed in claim 1. Furthermore, C4B cannot serve to control the constant current source as claimed in claim 1. It follows that Davidson does not disclose this element of claim 1 as stated in the office action and cannot render claim 1 obvious.

According to the rebuttals stated above, the rejection of claim 1 has been overcome and the applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the rejection.

CLAIMS 2 AND 3

Claims 2 and 3 are dependent on claim 1 and are deemed allowable by way of their dependence and for other reasons. Accordingly, the applicants request reconsideration of the rejections.

CLAIM 7

Claim 7, as amended herein, is printed as follows for convenience:

An integrated circuit, comprising:
a constant current source to provide first and second currents of different magnitudes;
first and second thermal diodes that respectively receive said first and second currents;
a comparator to receive forward bias voltages of each of the thermal diodes, to compare the forward bias voltages, and to output a voltage difference indicative of a temperature of the integrated circuit; and
a pad to receive a reference current, said pad being coupled to an input of said constant current source, said reference current thereby serving to control the constant current source.

Some portions of claim 7 that are not disclosed by either Davidson or Thomson, or their combination, have been printed in bold type. It is noted that the bold typed section of claim 7 has been added from claim 20, which was cancelled herein.

Claim 7 was rejected based on the same references as claim 1. Claim 7 has been amended herein amended herein to include the elements of claim 20, which are substantially similar to the elements of claim 7. Accordingly, the applicants incorporate the rebuttal to the rejection of claim 1 into this rebuttal of the rejection of claim 7. More specifically and as stated above, Davidson does not disclose "a pad to receive a reference current, said pad being coupled to an input of said constant current source, said reference current thereby serving to control the constant current source" as claimed in claim 7.

Based on the foregoing, the rejection of claim 7 has been overcome and the applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the rejection.

CLAIMS 8-17

Claims 8-17 are dependent on claim 7 and are deemed allowable by way of their dependence and for other reasons. Accordingly, the applicants request reconsideration of the rejections.

II. Rejection of Claims 4 and 19 Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 4 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Davidson (U.S. 5,639,163) and Thomson (U.S. 6,554,469) in view of Vergis (U.S. 6,453,218).

Claims 4 and 19 are dependent on claims 1 and 7, respectively, and are deemed allowable by way of their dependence and for other reasons. Accordingly, the applicants request reconsideration of the rejections.

III. Rejection of Claim 18 Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claim 18 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Davidson (U.S. 5,639,163) and Thomson (U.S. 6,554,469) in view of Audy (U.S. 5,195,827).

Claim 18 is dependent on claim 7 and is deemed allowable by way of its dependence and for other reasons. Accordingly, the applicants request reconsideration of the rejection.

IV. Rejection of Claim 6 Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claim 6 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Tanaka (U.S. 6,890,097) in view of Nishizawa (U.S. 5,401,099).

In view of the above, all of the pending claims are now believed to be in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
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